

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1050

By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Michael McDonald on the occasion of his 2004 Grammy Award nominations.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those distinguished and talented citizens of Tennessee whose activities in the arts have enhanced the cultural life of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such eminent and talented Tennessean is Michael McDonald, who recently was recognized for his musical brilliance with two Grammy nominations; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Williamson County since 1995, Michael McDonald has been a prominent figure on the national music scene since the 1970s; since then, his career has weathered its peaks and valleys with his recent Grammy nominations highlighting a noteworthy comeback into the national spotlight; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald was nominated in two categories: Best Male Pop Vocal Performance for "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and Best Pop Vocal Album for *Motown*; and

WHEREAS, Michael McDonald's 2004 nominations marked his return to the Grammys after a 19-year absence; he last appeared at the Grammys in 1985 when he and James Ingram won for best R&B performance by a duo with "Yah Mo B"; and

WHEREAS, earlier in his career, Michael McDonald joined the Doobie Brothers, a band with which he earned several Grammy Awards; his first single as a member of the band, "Takin' It to the Streets" became a top ten hit in 1976, and the group's *Minute by Minute* album sold more than three million copies and earned McDonald four Grammys for co-writing, singing, and arranging the No. 1 Billboard hit, "What a Fool Believes," a song he co-wrote with Kenny Loggins; and

WHEREAS, a part of the Doobie Brothers' farewell tour in 1982, Michael McDonald began to emerge as a solo artist with his album, *If That's What It Takes*; his song, "I Keep Forgettin'" "from his solo album, reached the top five on the charts and earned him another Grammy nomination; and

WHEREAS, after winning the R&B Performance by a Duo Grammy in 1985, Michael McDonald released two major hits the following year: "On My Own," a duet with Patti LaBelle, and "Sweet Freedom," from the movie *Running Scared* with Gregory Hines and Billy Crystal; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the mid-1980s, Michael McDonald doggedly persevered through times of personal and professional difficulties; and

WHEREAS, Michael McDonald also faced a personal crisis when his wife, Amy Holland, was diagnosed with cancer; Amy Holland is now cancer-free and attended the Grammy ceremony with him in February; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Music City, U.S.A., he collaborated with Tennessee artists and released *Blue Obsession* in 2000; although this album was moderately successful in terms of record sales, Michael McDonald feels this album is one of the best in his career; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Michael McDonald released his *Motown* album, which has sold more than 500,000 copies and earned him much acclaim; and

WHEREAS, featuring Michael McDonald's recordings of hits from the Motown era, this album appeared to be completing its commercial run when MCI long-distance service began airing commercials with songs from the album; these commercials, which featured Mr. McDonald singing "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," boosted his exposure and the album's sales; and

WHEREAS, these songs have fueled Michael McDonald's remarkable comeback and earned him two impressive Grammy nominations; and

WHEREAS, the Grammy Awards recognize the highest caliber of musical talent in the world, and a Grammy nomination signifies a level of professional excellence paralleled by few; and

WHEREAS, overcoming numerous obstacles and personal trials, Michael McDonald has remained dedicated to sharing his vocal and musical talents with others; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, work ethic, and determination that Michael McDonald has shown are characteristics that this General Assembly admires; this legislative body wholeheartedly applauds the success that Michael McDonald has achieved and recognizes his many gifts to those in the musical industry and to all those who appreciate music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Michael McDonald upon his nomination for two Grammys in 2004, thank him for his many contributions to the music industry and popular music throughout his excellent career, and offer to him our best wishes for much happiness and success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.